"Merry Widow" Waltzes to Four Star Fame for M-G-M and Lubitsch, Jeannette Macdonald and Chevalier Starry Stars.

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 26, No. 27 TORONTO 2, CANADA October 27th, 1934

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PUBLISHED BY

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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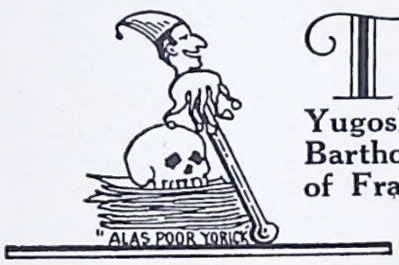
THE POLICE OF THE SCREEN



THE RECENT assassination of King Alexander of Yugoslavia, and Louis Barthou, Foreign Minister of France, as presented at the Toronto theatres during the current week in the various news reels was a thrilling exhibition. The eyes of the camera caught a scoop when it photographed that tragedy; and the importance of the newsreel must have impressed itself upon the governments of the world, their police system and the people. The camera may develop into a veritable "Police of the Screen", a means of identification in respect to "dangerous characters".

Most assassinations, where royalty, or official government representatives, or public men are the victims happen through no impulse, but by arrangement, and if the actual assassin is unknown to the secret service agencies, the contact groups which influence deeds of violence are known; and in the perpetration of an "act of violence", the person selected to actually do the deed is not left to carry the thing alone. Somewhere in that crowd there is someone in charge, or co-operating whom the police must know.

Who knows that the News Reel Cameraman, getting his Picture News for the Screen, may prove a big handicap for such crimes, for even in the "shots" of the crowd who are looking on, there may be discovered the photograph of someone the police is looking for.

A cameraman in evidence at all public events is an added protection for those who must take their chances with the public.

"THE PROFITS OF RELIGION"

UPTON SINCLAIR wrote a book called "The Profits of Religion" in addition to many other books which have made the name of Upton Sinclair a power. Mr. Sinclair thought he knew something about everything when he remained an author and a lecturer, he also thought he knew "politics", but he will know more of this latter game when his campaign is over and he is, or is not Governor of California.

To read the press one would imagine that it is only the Motion Picture Interests which objects to Sinclair as Governor. After reading his story of William Fox it would not be surprising if a few bankers, most of them one might reasonably imagine, their affiliated industrial and financial interests might reasonably object to Sinclair getting anywhere in politics, but Movies are getting all the publicity for the opposition to Sinclair.

We read in the press, in headlines, that the studios are intending to leave California, that producers have taken options on land around New York, that all the studio staffs, from stars to messenger boys have been asked to donate a day's pay to finance the defeat of Sinclair. It may be quite true that the policy which Sinclair has advocated for the Motion Picture Industry is not conducive toward making the Industry friendly toward Sinclair, nor has Sinclair's general publicly-expressed attitude toward Motion Pictures made him a favorite author with the Industry, but it is not Motion Pictures which will defeat Sinclair if he is defeated. There are wheels within wheels, not overlooking a few political machines. There is the clergy which hated his "profits in religion", the capitalists who hate his rabid socialism.

If Motion Pictures, as represented in California is in the game to defeat Sinclair, the Film Reformers had better not become aware of this, for they may be inspired to toss a coin to determine whether it shall be Sinclair, or Motion Pictures.

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE Ontario Motion Picture Bureau is to be re-organized. Twenty-four of the thirty-two employees on the staff including Major George E. Patton, the Director, have been told that their services will no longer be required.

The Premier states that the Bureau was serving no good. "What else can we do except reorganize, especially when it is in the interests of economy and the people of the province," Mr. Hepburn is quoted as stating.

I saw some government-made films covering a tour of Great Britain, and others also, which were excellent. Something should be seriously done before the "scrapping" process gets well under way. Most Governments of the world are taking the production of pictures in their respective countries seriously. Premier Hepburn might obtain some valuable information from the Industry of Motion Pictures in respect to the making of educational films. No company is going to spend its money in advertising Canada, when the Government feels that this is not necessary. Trenton Studios are also included in the economy clean-up.

The worst epidemic that ever hit the Industry of Motion Pictures was the economy-efficiency wave. I hope Ontario is not strickened with the same kind of a plague. What we need in Canada today are spenders; and no country ever pyramided its national debts, or went into a state of hopeless business stagnation, losing its credit-standing through a constructive business administration, where many were employed and many were happy.

I OBSERVE several editorials in the press in respect to "censoring the movies", and further observe that these editorials stress the importance of having women on the Censor Board, because, states one passage in one of these editorials, "While there are fields of activity in which the usefulness of the ladies is questioned, this is one service in which it is believed they would be a decided advantage. On questions of what is permissible and what is improper in Motion Pictures, they have a finer discrimination of judgment than men, which would decidedly strengthen any Censorship Board. Moreover, women are in this day and age keenly interested in education; perhaps more so, as a class, than men, for their motherly instincts naturally make them concerned with the welfare of children and young men and women, etc., etc."

I happened to attend a meeting recently of the Local Council of Women, which had as its guest-speaker, Dr. Margaret Addison, C.B.E., (Commander British Empire), who spoke on "Backgrounds of Social and Moral Reform". The meeting took place at Annesley Hall, Queen's Park, and the hostess was the Victorian Women's Association.

Dr. Addison gave a most interesting address, but when she attempted to talk Motion Pictures, as is usual with speakers unfamiliar with our Industry, she revealed a lack of knowledge in respect to the Industry as a business. For instance she desired to know why we did not have more scenics and travelogues upon the screen. More pictures like "Alice in Wonderland", which reminds me that a group of children, who attended a private school, were invited to see a performance of "Alice In Wonderland", and these children frankly informed the sponsors of the benefit performance that the picture was not sufficiently lively to interest them. Now these children belonged to a group who were given special religious training, who were daily talked to along idealistic lines. If they did not get a thrill from "Alice In Wonderland", what is the answer for the exhibitor?

DR. ADDISON, however, brought up a point worth considering. She repeated a story told by Dame Rachel Crowdy, in respect to pictures on ocean-liners. These ships in particular had a crew which included many Chinese, and these viewed pictures wherein the white people in the picture were presented as drunkards and gangsters.

It might be a good idea to be a little more careful in the selection of pictures for ocean-liners. A high-brow picture would be excellent propaganda, for ships generally carry a percentage of public men and women on their voyages, and the pictures selected for ocean-liners should not be "just anything", but the best.

Many a resolution is discussed and put into working form by groups who are en-route to attend welfare, educational and other conventions.

Since the ocean-liner furnishes a selected audience, why not make the selection of suitable pictures suit the occasion? It would be much better for the Industry of Motion Pictures to leave ocean-liners out of motion pictures than to supply just anything. That "anything" might be the inspiration for an expense of a million dollars in combating "nuisance legislation".

The viewpoint of women in respect to Motion Pictures by way of reform, may be judged by the viewpoint of Dr. Addison, who is a delightfully intelligent woman, sincerely in earnest, but absolutely unaware of any other angle in association with Motion Pictures, but the missionary, educational viewpoint.

Dr. Addison related a visit to Japan, in a

(Continued on page 6)

Grace Moore Concert, Eaton's Auditorium, Turns Hundreds Away—Will Return in December for Another Concert

Dear Old London

(Special to The Digest from our London correspondent, Dennison Thornton)

AN official shaft from the Ostrer bow has put a quick end to all talk of a Gaumont British-British International amalgamation. According to a Gaumont announcement the rumors of the merger were quite unfounded. "The Ostrer interests," it ran, "are not for sale, nor is it true that Mr. Isidore Ostrer contemplated retiring from his position as controlling head of the Gaumont British corporation."

"Amalgamation" gossip started when it leaked out that "conversations" were going on between John Maxwell, chief of B.I.P., and the Ostrer brothers of Gaumont British. The leakage was followed by publication in the London press of stories of a merger between the two companies. The "Evening News," a Rothmere gazette, patted itself on the back for having been first with the news, and then went on to say how (1) Ostrer had offered to sell Gaumont to B.I.P.; how (2) his figure was £1,750,000; how (3) B.I.P. would buy at around £1,000,000; how (4) Ostrer had then reduced his figure to £1,500,000; how (5) B.I.P. were still not satisfied since they had already agreed to give Fox a big sum for their interest in Gaumont, and so on and on for three quarters of a column. Other papers carried similar accounts thus making the story seem all the more genuine.

It has now been revealed, however, that "conversations" actually did take place between Maxwell and the Ostrers—not on the subject of a merger, but in connexion with a proposed scheme whereby the two companies would "pool their interests without disturbing existing individual managements of either concern." This idea has now been abandoned.

Commenting on the merger rumor Hannen Swaffer, London columnist, writes: "Heavens, what would have happened if it had been true! I know a lot of critics who were shivering in their shoes."

You ask why the critics were shivering? Drop Swaffer a line and perhaps he'll tell you!

Royalty Sees "Jew Suss"

THE London premiere of Gaumont's "Jew Suss" at the Tivoli was truly a brilliant occasion. Attended by Prince George, Queen Marie of Rumania, author Lion Feutchwanger and Conrad Veidt, the performance resulted in a sold-out house. Outside the theatre enthusiastic crowds watched the arrival of the celebrities, blocking Strand traffic for over half an hour. The critics turned up in full force and next morning unanimously acclaimed the picture a magnificent piece of screencraft and a credit to British production.

The arrival of Prince George at the Tivoli was filmed and then telephoto-ed to New York where it was reproduced on Radio City Music Hall Screen following the "Jew Suss" premiere there. Michael Balcon, producer of the film, cabled from New York that "Power" as the picture had been re-titled, drew over 20,000 people the first day and received magnificent tributes from the press. It was a proud day for British films, he said, for just around the corner from the Music Hall "Chu Chin Chow" was finishing its successful Roxy run while a little further away at the Criterion a big sign was being erected for "Man of Aran." Thoughts were also turning to Toronto where the third world-premiere of "Jew Suss" was taking place, and hopes expressed that it would meet with equal success there.

Reviews and Previews

By "JAY L."

"THE MOONSTONE" (Monogram)—*Shea's*

"THE MOONSTONE", currently featured at Shea's Hippodrome, Toronto, as suggested by the title, is the story of a jewel, attached to which is a curse which results in an ill-fate for all who possess the stone. The stone is inherited by Ann Tressider, an English girl, and her fiance, David Manners, after bringing the stone to her, advises her to get rid of it. She refuses and then the plot thickens, and mystery piles on mystery. After a number of complications, everything works out all right, and everybody is satisfied.

The story, written by the famous mystery writer, Wilkie Collins, has supplied an excellent vehicle for Canadian David Manners and Phyllis Barry. Jameson Thomas does excellent work in a supporting role.

Added attractions on Shea's bill were Ted Lewis, the high-hat king of jazz with a 100% entertaining revue. Ted, although not as young as he was, is still the king of showmen, and he has a "sweet" band, with a cast of thirty stars, including some very clever colored boys.

Special newsreel close-ups of the assassination of King Alexander of Jugoslavia and Monsieur Louis Barthou of France.

* * * *

"THE RICHEST GIRL IN THE WORLD" (RKO)

Imperial

YOU have all heard that phrase, "the poor little rich girl", and doubtless you all know what it means. Well, RKO's "Richest Girl in The World" is the story of one of those "poor little rich girls". Miriam Hopkins is cast as the girl who "had so many millions she didn't know what to do", and the only fun she gets out of life is making the stock-exchange palpitate like a crooner's adam's apple. She has a very charming and resourceful secretary (Fay Wray, Canada's own), and when "tired of it all" she changes places with her secretary, and thus is able to mingle with "us common folks".

It is while she is so disguised (?) that she meets handsome Joel McCrea and forthwith "two hearts beat in three-quarter (or faster) time". Joel, however, in spite of his great love for Miriam (as a secretary) is inclined to be rather mercenary and comes close to giving the "poor little rich girl" the air for Fay, whom he thinks has all the money; but it all comes out in the wash (which wash? why the Bulova Wash, of course!), and Miriam and Joel take a walk - - - up that long, long aisle.

Miss Hopkins is much better cast in "The Richest Girl in the World", that she was in "She Loves Me Not", with Bing Crosby, and her performance has a certain freshnes about it that is invigorating. Joel McCrea, in spite of his mercenary leans, plays his part with a humour that is hard to resist. Fay Wray, Henry Stephenson and Reginald Denny, all contribute to make this a thoroughly entertaining picture. The story, written by Norman Krasna, is abundant with breezy and witty dialogue, and William Seiter, the director, has made the most of his material and players.

Beverley Nichols Humility

ANSWERING his own question as to what he would do were he to start life over again, Beverley Nichols, author of "Cry Havoc" and "Evensong" says he would get into the film industry. He would learn every possible detail about production and distribution of pictures. The industry is vast enough to accommodate many thousands of enterprising young men, says he.

Six British First Runs Simultaneously on Broadway

Fairweather in St. John

OCTOBER saw the opening of another new theatre in Saint John, N.B., when the Empire Theatre, in the Knights of Columbus Building, opened the doors to the public and "Took A Bow".

The Empire is on Coburg Street with its auditorium in the former Council Chamber of the Knights of Columbus Hall. With heavy masonry walls the entrance and lobby slope upwards to the auditorium. The front is attractively designed in light buff bricks with a canopy over the street. Here the name "Empire" will be seen in lights making an addition to the street appearance.

The Projection and Sound equipment for the Empire is from the Northern Electric Company Limited of Montreal. A special feature of this system is that this is the first installation of this particular kind in Eastern Canada. All work was done under the direction of John Carr, installation engineer for the Company. It is claimed for the amplifier that it is the highest quality ever used in theatre sound systems to date.

The Empire is to be congratulated on its manager who is Stephen C. Hurley, a Saint John boy who is an experienced theatre manager having been manager in Saint John, Gordon's Codman Square Theatre in Boston, and at the Spa Theatre at Springfield, Mass.

The theatre is under the management of The Saint John Amusement Company Limited, officers of which are Nicholas Vassis, President; and Alex. Demerson, Vice-President. These are well known business men of Saint John whose friends wish them every success in this new venture.

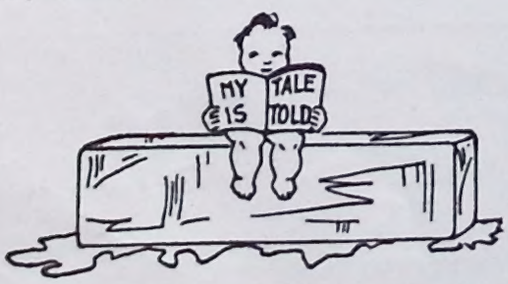
Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

centre where Christian missionaries were established. "Maedchen in Uniform" was double-billed with "Guilty as Hell", and the narrator related that the latter picture opened up with the murder of a woman by her husband, and ended up with a few more murders.

"Here," stated Dr. Addison, "were whites committing murders and the Japanese whom the white missionaries were endeavoring to teach the white man's way, here they were being shown the white man's rascality."

NOW let us suppose that the screen only produced gentle women and gentle men in genteel stories, where would the material come from, not from fairy tales which have giants who love the blood of Englishmen, or witches who turn children into gingerbread, etc., nor of angels, for is there not the wicked Lucifer who would intrude himself into an angelic picture, is there not the Angel of Death, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse? Where in heaven, or on earth, even in Hell, could we find 100% pure story material and characters — perhaps in the sea. No, even that watery kingdom fails us, for did not the Sirens tempt Ulysses, and what Pop-eye the Sailor could tell us about mermaids, Gulliver omitted from his Travels!



CONKLIN IN WINNIPEG

"Thine Is My Heart"

THE event of the past week in the moving picture houses of Winnipeg was, of course, the inauguration of the new policy of first run British pictures for the Osborne theatre. On Oct. 18, at a special pre-view, sponsored by the British trade commissioner, a large number of men and women, prominent in various Winnipeg circles, assembled to see the first presentation of "Thine is My Heart." Despite this disguised title, the picture is "Blossom Time" and is being exhibited under that name in Great Britain. The title "Blossom Time" had been previously copyrighted in Canada, hence it cannot be used for the present production. But all the musical glories of the famous opera are to be found in the picture. It is just a case of "a rose by any other name, etc."

Again, congratulations to Frank Kershaw for his success in bringing British pictures to the attention of the Winnipeg public. It was an uphill fight and at times must have been discouraging, but at last it would appear that the British production is receiving the attention it merits. And this attention is not confined to the Kershaw theatres, the Tivoli and Osborne. Time was when a British production could hardly get a chance in a first run house. Now they will all take them. Witness the booking of "Chu Chin Chow" at the Metropolitan, Winnipeg to follow "The Barretts of Wimpole Street."

Frederic March is a real actor. Give him the role with opportunities and he can do much more than look well. In "Jekyll and Hyde", he gave an amazing characterization, in "Quo Vadis" he made the role of Marcus very real and to cap the climax, as Robert Browning in "The Barretts of Wimpole Street," his work, viewed by Winnipeg critics, is superior to that of any actor ever seen in the same part on the speaking stage.

"The Barretts of Wimpole Street"

NO scarcity of good pictures in Winnipeg this week, beginning Oct. 22, "The Barretts" at the Metropolitan; Will Rogers in "Judge Priest" at the Capitol; a second week for William Powell in "The Thin Man" at the Lyceum; Edward G. Robinson in "The Man With Two Faces" at the Garrick. "Thine is My Heart" at the Osborne; "Murder on the Blackboard" at the Furby, and "The Moonstone" coming Wednesday to the Province. Variety and quality in that list sufficient to please everyone!

Funny, isn't it, the way pictures run in cycles? Take the mystery stories running in the first run local theatres of Winnipeg the week of Oct. 22. There are four of them and each has received more than passing attention in other cities. "The Man With Two Faces," starring Edward G. Robinson at the Garrick; "The Thin Man" with William Powell, at the Lyceum; "Murder on the Blackboard" at the Furby, have all been rated among the best mystery pictures of the year, and an especially interesting presentation at the Province brings to the screen the famous Wilkie Collin's story, "The Moonstone".
a novel, was one of the classics our fathers and grandfathers enjoyed and the screen presentation sticks to the story with remarkable fidelity.

John Fiddes for Alderman

JOHN T. FIDDES, manager of Lyceum theatre in Winnipeg, who is particularly well known for his management of the College theatre, is again to try to win an aldermanic seat in Ward 3, Winnipeg. John's friends have urged him to be a candidate.

Rabbi Stephen Wise Praises "Power"—Loew's Book Film for Circuit

Show Business

"The Merry Widow" Smashing Triumph

One of the greatest receptions in the long list of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Astor Theatre Broadway premieres was accorded "The Merry Widow" last week. The new Maurice Chevalier-Jeanette MacDonald-Ernst Lubitsch production drew cheers from the first night audience. Critics called the picture one of the company's greatest and the advance sale at the theatre is the largest in two seasons, with long lines outside the box-office a good part of the day.

"The Night Is Young" Goes Into Production

"The Night is Young", co-starring Ramon Novarro and Evelyn Laye, went into production last week at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios under direction of Dudley Murphy.

The cast of the film, which is based on an original story for the screen by Vicki Baum, with music by Oscar Hammerstein 2nd, includes Edward Everett Horton, Charles Butterworth, Rosalind Russell, Henry Stephenson, Una Merkel, Charles Judels, Albert Conti, Donald Cook and Herman Bing.

Actual camera work started Friday on Charlie Chaplin's new production, still tentatively called "Picture No. 5". After two years of preparatory activity on the script and the settings, the first "shot" was made with Chaplin acting in the triple capacity of star, director and author.

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Harlow & Gable to Co-star in "My Brother's Wife"

That popular co-starring team—Jean Harlow and Clark Gable—soon are to make a reappearance, according to present Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer plans.

The story is "My Brother's Wife," an original by George Auerbach, assistant to Producer Lawrence Weingarten, who is to produce the new Harlow vehicle. John Meehan is adapting the new picture, described as a strong modern drama, and E. A. Dupont is to direct.

RKO Radio to Release Latest Story by Hammett

Dashiell Hammett, author of the sensational success "The Thin Man," brings another of his intriguing stories to the screen in "Woman in the Dark," produced for the screen by Select Productions, for distribution through RKO, according to an announcement from the office of Ned E. Depinet, president of the RKO Distributing Corp.

Trade Showing of "Kid Millions" at Astor

Samuel Goldwyn's latest musical production, "Kid Millions," starring Eddie Cantor supported by Ann Sothern, Ethel Merman and Block and Sully, and released through United Artists, was trade shown at the Astor Theatre in New York on Tuesday, October 23, at 11.00 a.m.

Roy Del Ruth directed.

Stars in Universal Films

Hugh O'Connell, that original nut-cracking comedian from "Once In A Lifetime", recently went into his third talking picture at Universal City. It is his third in three months. He is to play an important role in "The Man Who Reclaimed His Head". This Broadway play, by Jean Bart, features Claude Rains, who lost his head in "The Invisible Man", Joan Bennett, Lionel Atwill, three-year-old Baby Jane, Henry Armetta and a large cast of capable players under the direction of Edward Ludwig.

American Motion Pictures Released in Finland

American motion pictures hold a dominant position in Finland, according to a report from Consul Cyril L. Thiel, Helsingfors, made public by the Commerce Department. About 75 per cent of all films exhibited in Finnish moving picture houses are of American origin, he points out. Because of their improving quality, British pictures are expected to show gains in the future, the report states.

"The Flame Song" Ready for Release

"The Flame Song," two-reel adaptation of the famous Otto Harbach and Oscar Hammerstein II stage and screen success, "The Song of the Flame," was previewed by Vitaphone's Home Office executives last week. The short which co-stars Bernice Claire and J. Harold Murray will be released shortly in Vitaphone's series of "Broadway Brevities" musicals.

Toronto Theatres

LOEW'S—Manager Jules Bernstein — Second week for "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", with Norma Shearer, Fredric March and Charles Laughton, a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production.

IMPERIAL—Manager Jack Arthur — "The Richest Girl in the World", an RKO picture with Miriam Hopkins, Joel McCrea and Fay Wray.

TIVOLI—Manager D. Krendal — Third week for "One Night of Love", with Grace Moore, Columbia production.

SHEA'S—Manager Jerry Shea — Monogram picture, "Moonstone", with Phyllis Barrie and David Manners.

UPTOWN—Manager Tom Daley — RKO production, "The Life of Vergie Winters", with Ann Harding and John Boles.

Phil Goldstone, Independent Producer to Make Two for M-G-M

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